



August 2004 Newsletter Volume 32, Number 8

[<http://www.underseas.org/news/0408.htm>]

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Page One Shot

A neon goby peeks out from his hideaway surrounded by red-orange encrusting sponge. Taken under a ledge on Oakland Ridges 2nd reef off Ft.Lauderdale.

Photo by Matt Barton

August Meeting Program: Rebreathers

Arlton Pavan, owner of Dixie Divers in Deerfield will be our speaker at the 5 August general meeting. Pavan will bring a rebreather and give a laptop presentation about rebreathers.

Dixie Divers is responsible for the concrete angels on Separated Rocks, recently renamed Angel Reef, and has plans for other activities for the diving communities. I met him for the first time at a meeting of the First Brazilian American Dive Club of which he was probably president.



*Ray McAllister
VP of Programs*

Dinner before the club meeting

Please join your fellow USA friends at:

**THE FLAMING PIT RESTAURANT
1150 N FEDERAL HWY
POMPANO BEACH, FL
954-943-3484**

On Thursday: August 5th at 6pm.

Direction: approx 1 mile north of Atlantic Ave in Pompano Beach on Federal Hwy. They are expecting us with open arms, separate checks & good food & service. Thank you to Kurt Koehler for recommending this fine restaurant.

See you there before the meeting.

Kim Whaley
VP Social



President's Waves

We are back from our trip to Tobago where eight U.S.A. members enjoyed the hospitality of a great crew on Peter Hughes' Wind Dancer. Besides diving, we had dinner on shore one night and were entertained by an awesome steel drum band. We also went on a tour of Little Tobago and spent our off gassing afternoon traveling around Tobago visiting various spots of interest. At times it was a bit tricky getting onto the tenders from the mother ship, however, we all did it many times without a mishap. In August our first trip to Bimini takes place, followed by a sold out trip to the Dry Tortugas in September, and in October the make-up of the May Bimini trip, which had to be postponed. Nils Jacobsen and the trip leaders have worked very hard arranging these trips.

Ten club members dove off the Starfish Enterprise on July 24th. The weather cooperated making this a great day. On the first dive, the Delray Ledge, we encountered eels, nurse sharks, lobster, and other interesting sea creatures. The current picked up on the second dive but besides lots of fish, we encountered a couple of large turtles. There are already seven people who intend on going on the August 21st local dive trip so the rest of you contact Larry Baum to assure your reservation.

The club rules were voted on and passed at the July meeting. A copy of the new approved rules are [located in this newsletter](#).

The regular spiny lobster season begins on **August 6th**. You can read some of the rules on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute website <http://myfwc.com/marine/lobster.htm>.

The beginning of lobster season coincides with the coral spawn that may take place August 6th, 7th, or 8th. Several U.S.A. voyeurs, I mean members, who are also members of the South Florida Underwater Photo Society, will literally spend those nights sitting on the ocean bottom waiting for the messing around to begin. You can read more about the coral spawn on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute website

http://www.floridamarine.org/features/view_article.asp?id=12033.

If you are reading this newsletter, and are a former member, an active member should contact you in the near future. We are attempting to make the club more attractive by soliciting your input into activities that would make you want to re-join.

See you at our General Meeting, August 5th,

*Mary LePage
USA President for 2004*

Local Diving

with Larry B

*****2004 LOCAL DIVE SUMMER SCHEDULE*** For AUGUST and SEPTEMBER**

**Saturday, August 21, American Dream II
Saturday, September 18, IBIS (Southeast Oceanic Services)**



An even ten of us--yours truly, Linda and Jerry G, Russ and Julie M, Clare A, Mary and Larry L, Gary S, and Barbara G--had a spectacular morning of diving on Saturday, July 24. We were with (in my humble opinion) one of the finest operations in South Florida, the Starfish Enterprise with Captain Craig Smart and DiveMaster Linda. They were the same crew we dove with last year and they continue to run one of the safest, most professional dive boats in South Florida. The day could not have been

better and we all spent the ride out to the first site commenting on how great it was to live and dive in South Florida. A few of the folks suggested that although they've been all over the world, dollar for dollar, the best diving is right off our shores.

Our first dive was on the Delray Ledges, located just South of the Boynton Reef System and just off the coast of (okay, so no surprises here) the City of Delray. We were dropped on the South side and let the gentle current take us all North. Most of us stayed on the inner West facing side, about 65 feet to the sand, and with the slight currents and even depth many of the Club had an hour of diving. There are long stretches of easy-to-explore 10 to 20 foot high ledges with large chunks of open reef to allow for different views and perspectives. The cracks and tunnels in the reef provided great photo opportunities. With the shark that Mary L spotted and photographed under the ledge, the barracuda, and other undersea life it was a great first dive.

The second dive was the Briney Breeze Reef just off the City of (wait for it, wait for it) Briney Breeze, also just South of the Boynton Inlet. Similar to Delray, the top of the reef is in about 45 feet of water with 65 feet to the sand. The reef had a similar shape to Delray, but in this case the current was whipping just a bit more moving us along. If anything, there was even more marine life than the first dive with everyone (EXCEPT ME, where was I looking?) marvelling about the large sea turtles.



I have scheduled our Saturday, August 21 dive with a new (at least to me) dive operation that comes highly recommended, American Dream II, with Captain Todd and Chris Rogers. If you're unfamiliar with their operation, take a look at their site (it all looks awfully impressive to me),

<http://www.scubafortlauderdale.com/index.htm>. After our dives in the Boca/Hillsboro/Lantana area I thought we'd try something down in Fort Lauderdale as the American Dream II is docked at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 just off the 17th Street Causeway (another rotten location ;-). Directions are at <http://www.scubafortlauderdale.com/directions.htm>

This is a class operation. The American Dream II is a brand new, USCG certified

46' custom dive vessel. It's roomy and comfortable with over 400' of deck space and upper level seating. It's 16' beam just adds to the spaciousness and stability. Fun, friendly, professional crew, fresh water showers, complimentary snacks and beverages...what's not to like? The standard Saturday morning dive is a wreck and reef and their web gives great descriptions of most of the seven reefs and nine wrecks they visit. <http://www.scubafortlauderdale.com/diving.htm> For our first time diving with them as a Club, they've given us a great price, so including the tip, the dive is just \$45 (with the \$10 per bottle tank charge, if needed). Boat leaves at 8:30am so we can all arrive at a leisurely 8:00am that morning. Take a look at their site (I think you'll be impressed) and let me know no later than Friday, a week before the dive, August 13, if you'll be joining us. (But, as always, the earlier the better)

Our final local dive of 2004 is scheduled for Saturday, September 18 with another old friend, Southeast Oceanic Services and their 36' custom dive boat, the Ibis. <http://www.divefortlauderdale.com>. Many of you have dove with the Ibis before and they're a Club favorite. The Ibis takes 20 divers max and is fitted with all the comforts and safety features; underwater diver recall system, two showers, enclosed head, and a large platform for easy entrance and exit. Of course, oxygen is onboard and the crew is all licensed, certified, and ensured. They're located on A1A--5400 North Ocean Drive--just south of Dania Beach Blvd and north of Sheridan Street and can be reached at 954-922-8134. We've picked an interesting dive profile that day. The Miss Dania is a new wreck in just 70' of water and that will be our first dive followed by a reef. The cost, including tips and goodies of course, is \$47. Please let me know if you'll need tanks and they're \$6 a bottle. Boat leaves at 8:30am with check-in at 8:00am. As always, please let me know that Friday, September 10, before the dive.

*Let's end 2004 with a entire boat of USA Divers!!
As always, I look forward to seeing you on these upcoming dives.*

*Larry Baum
VP Local Diving labaum@us.ibm.com*

22264 Rushmore Place
Boca Raton, Fl, 33428 (561) 487-8112
Phone/Fax 866-614-5072
Mobile 561-702-6265
email labaum@us.ibm.com

Southern Raft-up Report

The first "Southern Raft-up" Saturday July 3rd was an unqualified success for a few select boaters and divers. Steve M., Roger S., Ann S., Patrice M. and Rob M. departed promptly at 9am and after a delightful cruise entered the water at Mark's Ledges. Navigation was somewhat hampered by the fact that someone left the GPS console at home, but thanks to Ray's book and the sharp eyes of Ann lining up the shore marks we landed dead on the reef. Visibility was somewhat limited but the water temperature at 60 feet was near 80f. Lobsters were everywhere.

After a surface interval we cruised south to Baracuda Reef off Dania Beach. Once more we hit the water for a 30 foot dive. All went well initially until I hit the water, the last one in carrying the float. I dropped right on top of a manta ray. I managed to maintain my composure but the ray was a little surprised. He spooked and ran right into the float line and snagged it. The next thing I know I'm being towed south about 10 knots. I let go of the the line and he disappeared float, line and all. After obtaining another flag we completed the dive. On the way home we spotted the original flag about a mile north. We retrieved it and discovered that the manta was still attached, much to Patrice's surprise, who was holding the line. Before we could cut the line it parted and he disappeared never to be seen again. We hope he is okay, but he probably won't return anytime soon. Another Undersea Adventure !!

We rafted up in Lake Sylvia and enjoyed food and drink with tales to tell.

Roger Styles
VP Membership and Manta Wrangler

USA Overseas Dive Program 2005

CAYMAN AGGRESSOR IV
JUNE 18-25, 2005

EAT, SLEEP AND DIVE

5 DIVES A DAY
INCLUDING
FABULOUS NIGHT
DIVING.

Dive into Adventure with the Ultimate in Live-Aboards. Many divers consider the Cayman Island the crown jewel of

the Caribbean, with awesome visibility often exceeding 150 feet, lush walls covered with gigantic barrel sponges, twists of golden tube sponges and plumes of crimson gorgonians. Friendly residents like turtles, grouper, eel, octopus, reef sharks and eagle rays also enhance Cayman's beauty.

We will dive Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Completed in 1998, the 110 feet, 18-passenger dive yacht offers her guests the finest on-board accommodations and service in the Caymans. With features such as spacious staterooms with en-suite baths, a custom dive deck with person gear storage, and a sprawling sun deck with hot tub.

When we arrive on Saturday morning a uniformed crewmember will greet us at the Owen Roberts International airport and whisk us off to the yacht. We may board the Cayman Aggressor IV after 2:00pm. If you arrive early the crew will take your luggage and hold it for you and you will have the opportunity to

shop, sight see, take a tour of the turtle farm or visit "Hell" a unique geological formation that looks like scorched earth. Saturday evening, the boat takes off to Little Cayman while we eat dinner. Here we dive the famous Bloody Bay Wall, a glorious coral eden starting at only 16 feet. After a day or two at Little Cayman, the Aggressor speeds to Cayman Brac for one of the most thrilling wreck dives in the Caribbean, the Capt. Keith Tibbetts, a 330-foot Russian destroyer. The week culminates back on Grand Cayman with the world-famous feeding frenzy at Stingray City. Through out the week, Cayman Aggressor IV divers explore Grand Cayman's best dives sites like the wreck of the Oro Verde, Bonnie's Arch, Tarpon Alley and Babylon.

There are plenty of things to do topside between dives, that is, when you are not eating. With three delicious meals a day, plus fresh baked goodies and tasty desserts after the night dive, you'll quickly see

why Aggressor's motto is "Eat, Sleep and Dive." Aside from eating, you can relax on the sun deck with a good book, soak in the hot tub, or watch a movie. After two dives Friday morning, the Cayman Aggressor IV returns to the harbor, but your vacation isn't over yet. You may spend the afternoon walking through historical downtown Georgetown (more shopping), visiting a local English style pub, stroll Seven Mile Beach or just relaxing onboard until the evening cocktail party hosted by the crew when everyone reminisces about the wonderful week. After the party, everyone dines at a local restaurant. This is the only meal not included in the charter. Check out is 8:00am Saturday morning. The crew will arrange your transportation to the airport.

Photo

Facilities

- On-board computer with internet access via satellite phone
- E-6 lab for processing slide film
- Full complement of rental U/W cameras and accessories
- Light tables and projector for viewing slides
- Extra large, three-tier camera table with low pressure air hoses
- Battery charging area
- Photo and video courses
- Video editing station
- PC with slide scanning Option

Diving Amenities

- In-Place Nitrox fills

- Personal dive gear lockers
- Wide dive platform with two boarding ladders
- Two warm, 100F freshwater rinse showers
- Full complement of rental gear
- Rental "Apollo" scooters

Cost is \$1950.00 without the airfare. Some of you may want to use your frequent miles on American Airlines. I will be looking into getting a group rate when I can make reservations at a later date. Cayman Airlines flies directly to Grand Cayman from Miami International Airport. Estimated airfare is \$425.00.

Not Included
 Port Charges
 Breakfast, lunch on Saturday 18th
 Dinner on Friday the 24th

Persons Signed Up: Linda C, Ronnie F, Linda I, Kurt K, Chary L, Joanne M, Frank M, Hank R, Bob W.

Trip Payment Schedule

	Trip Dates	Deposit	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL
Cayman 2005	June 18-25	\$100	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	----	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$280	\$2,375

**THIS TRIP WILL FILL UP FAST.
 PLEASE SEND YOUR \$100.00 DEPOSIT AND AUGUST PAYMENT TO
 CHARY LYNN TO HOLD YOUR SPOT.**

Sign up forms will be available at August's meeting, or online at:

<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2005/cayman/>

[Acrobat format Cayman signup form](#) - [Word format Cayman signup form](#)

Please direct all questions to Ronnie Farr.
 954-783-1667 Home
 305-774-7690 Work

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USA's Overseas Trips for 2004



BIMINI-LIVE-A-BOARD - Paradise Charters – Easy Goin'

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!!

**August 10-14, or October 12-16, 2004
(4 days)**

One spot is still available on the Easy Goin' from the rescheduled May Bimini trip. (If you need two, the boat might have an extra opening; the earlier you ask the better ...)

We got rebooked in two groups both scheduled to board on Tuesday night with return on Saturday afternoon. You can join Danny Michels and Hank Resch on August 10 - 14 or Mary and Larry LePage, Marilyn Van Valkenburg and me on October 12 - 16. The trip which includes Bahamian tax and tip is \$1050. A 7th diver means that each diver will receive a refund.

As the name implies, it is nice easy diving (doesn't mean boring) and the meals are great. The boat has an A+ reader rating from Rodale's. If you want to join us or need more details, please contact:

Trip leader, Chary Lynn
CSEAFLOWER@aol.com
561 330 7490

<http://www.paradisecharters.com>
<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/bimini>

Dry Tortugas on the Playmate

**September 9-13,
Two Open Spots!**

Two spots have become available on this trip. If you are interested in going, please contact Nils Jacobsen at TGM349@email.mot.com or Gail Cistrelli (Stremlo) at gstremlo@us.ibm.com

This trip is a hunting trip for lobsters and spear-fishing. The boat is 60 feet long with a twenty foot beam. Holds 10 passengers in four separate air conditioned staterooms, plus two bathrooms with showers. The fine cuisine is prepared to your approval using only the best cuts of meat, poultry, and fresh-caught seafood. Other amenities include: Sun deck, satellite TV/VCR/Stereo, water maker, DNAXNitrox, shaded back deck, cut out transom with platform, 2 electric onboard air compressors. Prices Include: 4 breakfasts 4 lunches 3 dinners snacks, water and lemonade. Bedding Tanks, weights All tips.

Prices are: \$1,100.00 Air, \$1,200.00 Nitrox, \$1,240.00 for tanks over 80 or own tanks.

We board the boat after 7:00pm on the night of September 9th. The boat leaves the docks while we sleep at 5:00am. We wake up to the smell of fresh coffee and are served a full hot breakfast. We start diving around 8:00am. We average 6 dives a days, diving on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday 3 dives, and returning to the docks on Monday the 13th around 3:00pm.

Trip Leader: *Ronnie Farr*
<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/tortugas>

Overseas Trip Payment Schedule

Trip	Trip Dates	Total
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Bimini, Paradise Charters	August 3-8	\$1,255
Dry Tortugas, Playmate (Nitrox)	Sept 9-13	\$1,200
Dry Tortugas, Playmate (Air)	Sept 9-13	\$1,100
Bimini, Paradise Charters	Oct 12-16	\$1,050

	Trip Dates	Deposit	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL
Cayman 2005	June 18-25	\$100	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	----	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$280	\$2,375